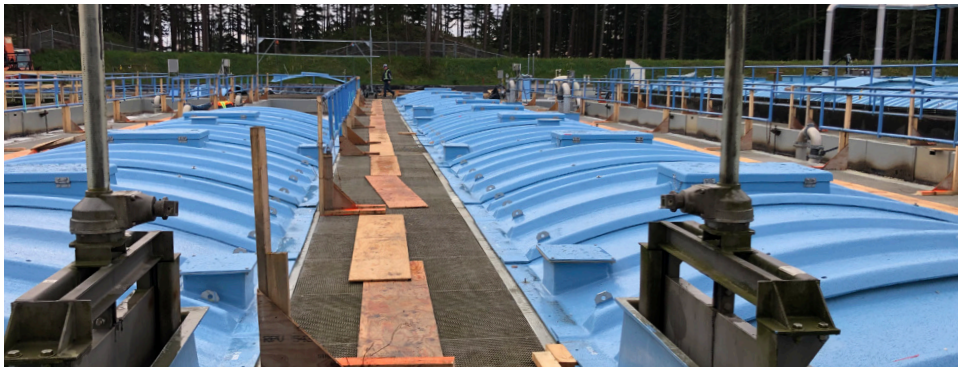


# Sewage Treatment Plant Upgrades

Newsletter #6  
March 2021

Welcome to the sixth issue of the Comox Valley Regional District's newsletter, providing updates on the ongoing upgrades at the Comox Valley Water Pollution Control Centre (sewage treatment plant). These newsletters are intended to keep the community informed about the work of managing this critical facility. Learn more at [comoxvalleyrd.ca/upgrades](https://comoxvalleyrd.ca/upgrades).



Bioreactor Covers

## Odour Upgrades on track for spring completion

A key piece of the odour upgrades for the sewage treatment plant – the covering of the bioreactors – is now underway and the project team is on track to have the covers fully installed by mid-April.

Installation of the covers – blue 'lids' which will capture odourous air released during the treatment process – began in early 2021 and when complete, will reduce odours at the facility significantly. The other key component of the upgrade – addition of a new scrubber (which removes odours from the air before it's released) – is also underway and on track to be complete before summer 2021, as committed to.

"The entire project team is working hard to have this completed before the summer, when we know that concerns about smell increase," said Marc Rutten, general manager of engineering services. "We, along with others in the community, are looking forward to meeting this goal."

In order to meet the important deadline, the CVRD decided on an alternative approach to the construction contract process. The CVRD chose to move forward with ordering the scrubber and covers directly and then seek contractor proposals for the installation. The alternative – of seeking contractor proposals and then having the successful applicant buy the scrubber and covers – would have delayed the project significantly. This advanced order on the equipment has been critical for project success, particularly as COVID-19 has heavily impacted manufacturing and shipping industries.

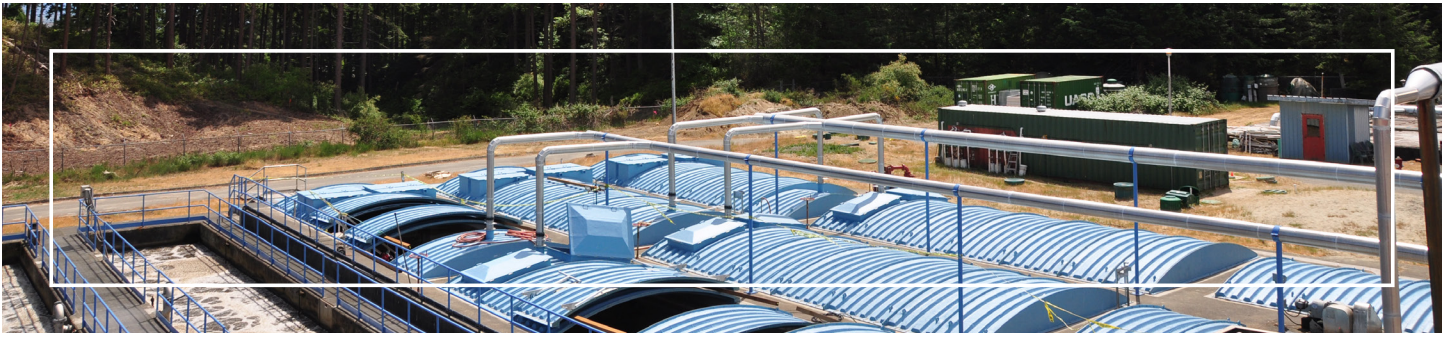
This series of odour upgrades – a \$7-million capital improvement - was approved in January 2020. They follow other upgrades completed in 2017 and 2018 and will, all together, resolve longstanding odour issues near the treatment plant.



Demolition of the current scrubber building is underway to make space for new scrubber and chemical tanks.

## Final tasks this summer

While the new odour targets will be met by summer 2021, there will be a final few days of work scheduled in early summer for replacement of temporary ducting. Manufacturing and delivery delays have postponed the arrival of ducting that goes on top of the scrubber building. To meet the summer 2021 target of odour control goals, the CVRD's operations team and contractor have developed a temporary system to carry them over until the final equipment arrives. The switchover requires two 12-hour shutdowns of the odour control equipment. Residents signed up for alerts will be notified. However, the CVRD does not expect a release of odorous gases from the buildings/tanks.



## New route for sewer lines selected

On February 23, 2021 the sewage commission approved a plan to upgrade the pipes and pump stations that move wastewater to the sewage treatment plant. The project will be undertaken in one phase and includes upgrades to pump stations at K'ómoks First Nation and Jane Place, and replacement of the Courtenay pump station.

This decision was based on input from staff, technical experts, public and technical advisors, and marks the final of three key decisions required for the Comox Valley Sewer Service's Liquid Waste Management Plan.

### Next Steps:

- An Alternate Approval Process will be held to seek electoral approval for the borrowing required for this project. The electors for this service include residents of the City of Courtenay and Town of Comox. Area B residents do not contribute to this sewer service.
- The conveyance project will move into detailed design, which will determine the specifics of route alignment. Some changes from the conceptual maps shared with the public could be identified to minimize impacts to residents, businesses, archaeological sites, costs and efficiencies.
- Groundwater assessment continues to ensure the alignment and design of the sewer pipe properly protects that resource, particularly in relation to wells in the Lazo area.
- The CVRD will continue dialogue with stakeholders and residents. In particular those with properties located in potential right-of-ways and homeowners with wells.

For more information on the LWMP and next steps, visit

[www.connectcvrd.ca/lwmp](http://www.connectcvrd.ca/lwmp)



### PIPE UPGRADE COMPLETE

Along with the important odour upgrades outside the plant, the CVRD has also completed interior upgrades to critical pipe infrastructure that was started in fall 2020. Many of the pipes that allow the facility to operate successfully were at their end of life – over 30 years of age – and required replacing. The work was completed in March.



## Sign Up for Phone/Text Notifications

To receive urgent or short-term notifications about the sewage treatment plant operations, you can sign up for a text or voicemail update from the CVRD's notification system (ConnectRocket). The facility team will send out a notice if there is planned maintenance that may result in noise or odour impacts, or if an unplanned operational issue causes increased impact that will be prolonged (more than one day). Residents will also be notified when the EQ basin is in use.

To sign up, visit: [comoxvalleyrd.ca/notifications](http://comoxvalleyrd.ca/notifications)

## Questions/Concerns?

### Contact Us:

Phone: Business hours/non urgent: **250-334-6095**, after hours/emergency: **1-888-777-5985**

Email: [engineering@comoxvalleyrd.ca](mailto:engineering@comoxvalleyrd.ca)

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